

REMARKS

Claims 4-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been canceled and new claims 4-9 have been added by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, receipt of the priority papers was acknowledged; claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph; and claims 1-3 were rejected under U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Munoz et al. (U.S. Application No. 2005/0009603).

Claim Rejection- 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Claims 1-3 have been canceled by way of the present amendment. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Munoz et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1-3 have been canceled by way of the present amendment and new claims 4-9 have been added to clarify the invention. Support for the new claims is provided at least at pages 1-3, paragraphs 7-12; and shown at least in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, of the specification. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims raise no question of new matter.

Munoz et al. discloses a display device and double drum for gambling machines directed to increase the number of images that can be seen through the screen of the gambling machines.¹ In particular, Munoz et al. discloses two flywheels 14, 17 that are coaxial, have different diameters and have concentric annular bands 15, 18.² Further, Munoz et al. discloses the annular bands 15, 18 bear a plurality of uniformly distributed images 28, 30 that are intercalated with

¹ Munoz et al. at ABSTRACT; and page 1, paragraph 8.

² *Id.* at ABSTRACT and FIG. 7.

transparent sectors 29, 31.³ Moreover, Munoz et al. discloses the two flywheels 14, 17 each have rotational freedom and each have drive motors 13, 19, respectively.

In contrast to Munoz et al., the present invention is directed toward illuminating a roulette wheel locally to improve visibility.⁴ In particular, Munoz et al. nowhere discloses, as recited in claim 4:

[a]n apparatus for a roulette wheel, comprising:
a roulette wheel with numbers and compartments for accepting a ball;
a housing configured for the roulette wheel to rotate inside the housing; and
a structure for illuminating the roulette wheel,
wherein, the structure is located in the upper part of the housing and locally illuminates the roulette wheel.

In addition, Munoz et al. primarily teaches a display device oriented toward a double rotating drum for a slot machine. Munoz et al. does not explicitly disclose “a roulette wheel with numbers and compartments that accept a ball” or “a housing configured for the roulette wheel to rotate inside the housing,” as recited in claim 4.

Further, Munoz et al. nowhere discloses, as recited in claim 5:

an optical ring;
a support;
a spacer ring;
a band provided with lamps; and
a cover,
wherein the support and spacer ring form a vertical circular slit extending around an upper part of the housing, the band provided with lamps is mounted inside the vertical circular slit, the optical ring is provided along an inner periphery of the spacer ring, and the cover is placed over the optical ring and the band provided with the lamps.

Furthermore, nowhere discloses, as recited in claim 9:

[a] method for assembling a structure that illuminates a roulette wheel, comprising:
forming a vertical circular slit around an upper periphery of a housing for the roulette wheel with a spacer and a support;
inserting a band provided with lamps in the vertical circular slit;

³ *Id.* at page 3, claim 3; and FIG. 7

⁴ Specification at page 1, paragraph 4.

connecting the lamps of the band to at least one electrical source;
adding an optical ring along an inner periphery of the lamps; and
covering the optical ring with a cover that is fastened to the
housing.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Munoz et al. does not disclose, anticipate or inherently teach the claimed invention and that claim 4, claim 5, claim 9 and claims dependent thereon, patentably distinguish thereover.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires clarification, the Examiner may contact the undersigned so that this Application may continue to be expeditiously advanced. In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Date: December 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Myron Keith Wyche
Registered Patent Agent, No. 47,341
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425
Telephone: 202-331-7111